

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LAGOS 01882 141256Z

41

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OPR-02 SCCT-01 A-01 SY-05

OC-05 CCO-00 OMB-01 ACDA-05 IO-11 EB-07 CU-02 USSS-00

SCS-03 SCA-01 /103 W

----- 095566

O R 141150Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3350

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY N

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMCONSUL DOUALA

AMCONSUL IBADAN IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL KADUNA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 1882

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PGOV, PFOR, CASC, NI

SUBJECT: SITREP: ATTEMPTED COUP

REF: A. STATE 36550 B. LAGOS 1871 AND PREVIOUS

SUMMARY: SITUATION IN NIGERIA RETURNING TO NORMAL. YESTERDAY'S
COUP ATTEMPT HAS SEEMINGLY BEEN FOILED BUT THERE HAS AS YET BEEN
NO RPT NO ANNOUNCEMENT OF FATE HWEAD OF STATE OR OTHER MEMBERS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LAGOS 01882 141256Z

RULING SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL (SMC). IF MUHAMMED IS INDEED

DEAD, DELAY IN ANNOUNCEMENT MAY REFLECT DIFFICULTY IN SELECTING SUCCESSOR. SMC HAS BEEN MEETING SINCE YESTERDAY ACCORDING TO NIGERIAN RADIO AND IS TO MAKE ANNOUNCEMENT SOON. RUMOR THAT USG OR CIA HAD HAND IN COUP IS MAKING ROUNDS IN IBADAN AND LAGOS, PERHAPS PARTIALLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO U.S. NIGERIAN DIFFERENCES ON ANGOLA AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER STATEMENT ON RETURN WARNING NIGERIANS TO BE SECURITY CONSCIOUS AND ON GUARD AGAINST SABOTEURS AND DETRACTORS OF NIGERIAN FOREIGN POLICY. END SUMMARY.

1. SITUATION: COUP ATTEMPT HAS APPARENTLY BEEN FOILED. TRAFFIC ALMOST BACK TO NORMAL FOR A SATURDAY MORNING IN LAGOS AND RADIO NIGERIA RESUMED NORMAL NEWS BROADCASTING AT ABOUT 1000 HOURS LOCAL. RADIO REPORTS THAT COUP LED BY LT. COL. DIMKA CRUSED AND THAT SMC MEETING GOING ON AT THIS TIME WOULD RESULT IN STATEMENT TO NATION. REPORTS REACHING EMBASSY TODAY INDICATE THAT LOCAL TV STATIONS IN BENIN AND ELSEWHERE OUTSIDE OF LAGOS AND IBADAN WERE BROADCASTING STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT FOR GOVERNMENT YESTERDAY ALONG LINES OF RADIO DAKUNA (KADUNA 179). ONLY IBADAN RADIO APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN IN HANDS OF DIMKA SUPPORTERS.

2. COUP PLOTTERS APPARENTLY WERE SUCCESSFUL ONLY IN SEIZING TEMPORARY CONTROL NBC IN LAGOS AND IN ASSASSINATING GENERAL MUHAMMED. PHONE AND TELEX COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN LAGOS AND REST OF COUNTRY WERE NOT INTERRUPTED WHICH LEFT FORCES LOYAL TO MUHAMMED REGIME ABLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH EACH OTHER AND ORGANIZE COUNTER COUP. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, EXTERNAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS ALSO REMAINED OPERATIVE.

3. HOWEVER, AIRPORTS AND BORDERS REMAIN CLOSED TO INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC AS OF THIS TIME NIGHT CURFEW HAS NOT RPT NOT BEE CALLED OFF, AND DEPARTMENT'S WARNING TO TRAVELERS STILL APPROPRIATE.

4. SMC MEETING: NIGERIA'S RULING SMC CONTINUES MEETING ACCORDING REPORTS WE RECEIVING. THERE HAS BEEN NO RPT NO STATEMENT ABOUT FATE OF MUHAMMED OR OTHER MEMBERS FMG. IN FACT, THERE HAS BEEN NO RPT NO STATMENT FROM FMG EXCEPT VARIATIONS OF ONE WHICH REPORTED THAT COUP ATTEMPT HAD BEEN CRUSHED (LAGOS 1869). IF THE REPORTS THAT MUHAMMED HAS BEEN KILLED ARE CORRECT (AND WE AT THIS POINT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LAGOS 01882 141256Z

ACCEPT THAT THEY ARE), DELAY IN MAKING FURTHER STATEMENT PROBABLY REFLECTS INABILITY OF SMC AGREE ON SUCCESSOR AS HEAD OF STATE. OBASANJO, AS YORUBA AND WIDELY ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN LINING HIS POCKETS, PROBABLY UNACCEPTABLE TO SOME ON SMC AND WITHIN ARMY DESPITE HIS POSITION AS NUMBER TWO IN FMG POWER STRUCTURE. DANJUMA, WHO WOULD STAND THRID IN LINE, MAY NOT ENJOY SUPPORT AMONG FULL MILITARY HIEARCHY S RESULTHIS MOVES TO DEMOBILIZE ARMY AND THE PURGE OF ARMY OFFICERS WHICH HE DIRECTED. HE HAS ALSO

COME

OUT HARD AGAINST "CULTS" AND "SECRET ORGANIZATIONS" IN ARMY WHICH PROBABLY RUBBED MEMBERS THOSE NIGERIAN ORGANIZATIONS WRONG WAY. THERE IS POSSIBILITY THAT COMMISSIONER DEFENCE BISALLIA COULD BE COMPROMISE CANDIDATE.

5. AS MATTER OF PURE SPECULATION, IT MAY BE THAT DIMKA FORCES WERE ABLE SEIZE A COUPLE OF IMPORTANT HOSTAGES YESTERDAY AND DELAY IN MAKING ADDITIONAL STATEMENT REFLECTS ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS FOR THEIR RELEASE. IT COULD ALSO BE THAT SOME OF THOSE IMPLICATED IN THE PLOT ARE STILL BEING ROUNDED UP, AND FMG AWAITING WORD THAT ALL IS TIDY BEFORE MAKING PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW LINEUP.

6. RUMORS OF CIA AND U.S. INVOLVEMENT: IBADAN HAS REPORTED THAT RUMORS FLYING THERE THAT CIA WAS BEHIND YESTERDAY'S COUP ATTEMPT. STORGY THAT AMERICANS WERE BEHIND COUP MAKING ROUNDS IN LAGOS YESTERDAY ALSO. THESE STORIES MAY BE RELATED TO PUBLICIZED DIFFERENCES BETWEEN U.S. AND NIGERIA OVER ANGOLA AND PARTIALLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER GARBA'S STATEMENT ON HIS RETURN FROM U.S. WHEN HE WARNED NIGERIANS TO BE SECURITY CONSCIOUS AND ON GUARD AGAINST SABOTEURS AND DETRACTORS OF NIGERIA'S NEW "REVOLUTIONARY" FOREIGN POLICY (LAGOS 1773). HAVE RECEIVED PHONE REPORT FROM IBADAN THAT UNIVERSITY STUDENTS DEMONSTRATED AGAINST U.S. AT CONSULATE THIS MORNING. IBADAN REPORTS THERE WERE NO RPT NO PERSONNEL IN CONSULATE OFFICES AND THAT REQUESTED POLICE PROTECTION WAS ON SCENE. AT MOMENT IT IS RAINING IN LAGOS WHICH SHOULD TEMPORARILY AT LEAST DAMPEN ANY SIMILAR DEMONSTRATION HERE IF ONE IS BEING CONTEMPLATED. WE ARE IN TOUCH WITH LOCAL POLICE HEADQUARTERS IN CASE NEED FOR PROTECTION SHOULD ARISE. KADUNA CONSULATE REPORTS ALL QUIET. EASUM

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchant0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LAGOS01882
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760057-0809
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760248/aaaabpmb.tel
Line Count: 145
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 36550, 76 LAGOS 1871
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 FEB 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <04 OCT 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SITREP: ATTEMPTED COUP
TAGS: PINS, PGOV, PFOR, CASC, NI, CIA, (MUHOMMED, MURTULA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006